



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Tuesday, September 06, 2022 at 6:30 PM

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Horn called the Edgewood City Council Special Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He asked for a moment of silence followed by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Administrative Assistant Sollazzo announced a quorum with three (3) council members and Mayor Dowless present. Council President Pro-tem Pierce attended via telephone. Councilmember Chotas was not able to attend.

PRESENT

Councilmember Ben Pierce (Via Phone)
Councilmember Chris Rader
Council President Richard Horn
Councilmember Susan Lomas
Mayor John Dowless

ABSENT

Councilmember Lee Chotas

STAFF

Brett Sollazzo, Administrative Assistant
John Freeburg, Police Chief
Shannon Patterson, Police Chief of Staff
Scott Zane, Police Officer/IT
Tammy Campbell, McDirmit Davis

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to allow Council President Pro-Tem Pierce to attend by phone; seconded by Councilmember Rader. Motion approved (3/0).

C. PUBLIC HEARINGS (ORDINANCES – SECOND READINGS & RELATED ACTION)

- **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-07**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES UPON THE ASSESSED REAL AND BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ROLLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Smith read the ordinance in title only.

Council President Horn said he favored keeping the millage rate at 5.25 but he would prefer to lower it. Attorney Smith said the budget does not have final approval until the next meeting but suggested that the conversation be made as soon as possible to make it more efficient to have the final numbers prepared.

Councilmember Rader noted a typographical error in the date on the title, which should be "2023".

A discussion ensued regarding the required threshold per Charter requirements.

Councilmember Rader discussed concerns:

- The actuals for this year do not represent the budgeted transfer to street funds, which is a \$150,000 change.
- ARPA funds are restricted.
- No reserves column in the budget.
- The City is counting \$175,000 in ARPA as revenue for the sidewalk project deficit of \$50,000.

Ms. Campbell responded that the City has been conservative on the expense side and has budgeted to use reserves over the past few years, but has actually added to it instead. The City had a good fiscal year and controlled spending.

Councilmember Rader asked that next year, staff provide projections for the end of the year.

Ms. Campbell said the unassigned fund balance takes into account the \$150,000 transfer. The charter never contemplated this kind of influx of money and it only took regular revenue into account, but not the influx of ARPA money.

Attorney Smith said the City will have the ability to amend the budget. Funds can be moved back out of Roads and Streets. Mayor Dowless noted that it is better to keep the money there and Council President Horn cautioned that the City needs to prepare for bridge work.

Attorney Smith said if the City is not conservative enough with these dollars, and results in being too far over the 75% threshold, it is difficult to get back down. The City needs to spend money at a rate that keeps under the 75% threshold.

Councilmember Rader said the budget looks like it is masking a general fund issue. He said general funds should represent reality, and not use ARPA to cover the streets budget that are needed in the general fund.

Attorney Smith suggested footnoting the movement of the money and creating a record to explain the ARPA influx for future Council or public education. This was a one-time opportunity to receive this money.

Mayor Dowless said ARPA funds are intended for revenue replacement, and the City’s revenues did drop because the past few years were not typical. He added that sidewalk repair needs to be done.

Councilmember confirmed to Mayor Dowless that the budget would remain the same but the City would use more reserves and incoming expenses are the same. Councilmember Rader said expenses will not go away and he wants to see the reality of where the money is. He said he does not suggest changing the millage.

Council President Horn said the spreadsheet can be changed to show the shortfall and the City will use reserves now. In the near future, there can be a budget amendment to take money from the ARPA funds.

Chief Freeburg said Mayor Dowless is putting together an ARPA committee. He agreed that putting a notation on the budget is a good idea.

Attorney Smith explained that the rollback rate is the millage rate that would yield the same amount of money as last year.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember said, "I move to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-07 setting the City of Edgewood's millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 at 5.250 mills which represents an 8.98 percent increase over the roll-back rate of 4.8172 mills". The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lomas.

Council President Pro-tem Pierce	Favor
Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2022-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023; CONFIRMING DATE OF SECOND PUBLIC HEARING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Smith read the resolution in title only.

Mayor Dowless confirmed to Ms. Campbell that the Mayor’s stipend would be moved to Information Technology.

Councilmember Rader said \$175,000 of ARPA should be removed from the budget, which would then reflect the correct deficit and puts the budget under the 75% revenue threshold.

Attorney Smith said Councilmember Rader’s point is to show the real deficit because that will do a better job of educating everyone as to the financial condition of the City without the ARPA revenues.

Ms. Campbell summarized that the budget will not use \$175,000 of ARPA funds but will use the expenses that as sidewalk expenses. Councilmember Rader said there is an additional \$106,000 that needs to be spent.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Lomas said, "I move to adopt Resolution No. 2022-05 a Resolution adopting the tentative budget and confirming the date of the second public hearing for Fiscal Year 2022/2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rader. Motion

The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Pro-tem Pierce	Favor
Councilmember Rader	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor

4. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Proposed Budget Worksheet

Mayor Dowless said that Chief Freeburg recommended, and he agrees, to make a cost of living payment of \$2000 to full-time employees and \$1000 to part-time employees from the current fiscal year budget.

Attorney Smith said ARPA funds are not being used for this.

Chief Freeburg said that he thought it would be a good idea for all city employees, from sergeants down, and civilian employees.

The Mayor confirmed to Councilmember Rader that the City will still under budget. Chief Freeburg that the Police Department still needs a code enforcement car.

There were no objections from City Council.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. CITIZEN COMMENTS

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM motion.


 Richard A. Horn, City Council President


 Sandra Riffle, Interim City Clerk